

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 22, 2005

The Honorable Fortney Pete Stark
239 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Stark:

We write to request your assistance in securing funding on a priority basis to increase flood protection in our State.

We believe that the probabilities of a levee breach due to a major storm, earthquake, or deterioration remain high. Hurricane Katrina has taught us that we must prepare for such an event. In consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers and Governor Schwarzenegger, we propose a Fiscal Year 2006 program that will provide the Sacramento area with 100 year flood protection and prepare for construction work on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levee system, which have been identified by the Governor as the highest priority needs in the State.

A major breach in these levees could imperil hundreds of thousands of people and endanger most of the State's water supply. We believe that the best course of action is to proceed expeditiously on the projects that will provide the most protection to population centers and infrastructure. It is our hope that the delegation will unite in a bipartisan fashion to move these proposals forward in this year's Appropriations cycle.

In recent weeks, we have seen all too clearly the impact of inadequate flood protection in urbanized areas. The City of Sacramento has the highest risk of flooding of any major city in the country and has suffered serious floods twice in the last ten years. The proposal below will, in the next year, reinforce Sacramento's levee system to give it 100-year flood protection and advance work on Folsom Dam that will provide 200-year protection. It also addresses the risk to areas around Sacramento—like Yuba-Sutter—that have suffered major floods.

A second major vulnerability identified by the Governor is the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levee system. This network of levees protects some of the most productive agricultural land in our Nation. The impact of neglecting them was demonstrated last year with the Jones' Tract flood. A major levee failure in the Delta could be brought on by an earthquake, heavy winter rains like those in Southern California this year, or by time and deterioration. Should that occur, brackish water would flood into the Delta, inundating homes and farm land and threatening the water supply for the Central Valley and Southern California.

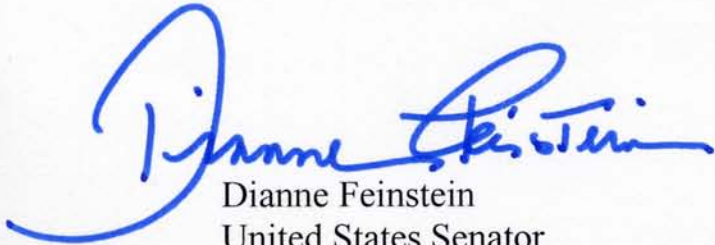
Over 3 million acres of farmland and over 20 million people depend on water supplies from the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. In the event of a major Delta levee breach, these distribution systems could be inoperable for months, or even years. Clearly, disruption of water to our State's biggest industry and our population centers would be a staggering blow to our State and the Nation. Fortunately it is preventable. The Army Corps of Engineers has a program of short and long term risk assessments of Delta flood protection. With adequate funding, construction can begin on the most immediate problems in FY07, while a long term strategy is developed.

Below is the FY 06 program that we propose in consultation with Governor Schwarzenegger and the Army Corps of Engineers.

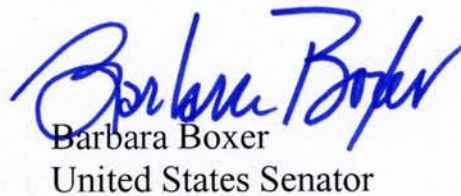
1. \$ 10.0 million - South Sacramento Streams
2. \$ 20.0 million - Sacramento River Bank Protection
3. \$ 16.0 million - American River Common Features
4. \$ 15.0 million - American River Folsom Dam Raise
5. \$ 9.55 million - American River Folsom Dam Modifications
6. \$ 0.5 million - CalFed 180-day levee report directed in PL 108-361
7. \$ 3.0 million - Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study to conduct the
Delta Risk Management Strategy directed in PL 108-361
8. \$ 8.0 million - Levees System Evaluation and FEMA certification process
9. \$ 4.5 million - Natomas Reimbursement to SAFCA
10. \$ 3.3 million - Mid-Valley Levee Reconstruction
11. \$ 1.2 million - Yuba River
12. \$ 0.6 million - Lower Cache Creek
13. \$ 1.0 million - Middle Creek

These projects will be cost shared by state and local agencies. Together our delegation can ensure that full federal participation proceeds with the urgency needed to prevent a major disaster in our great State. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this proposal.

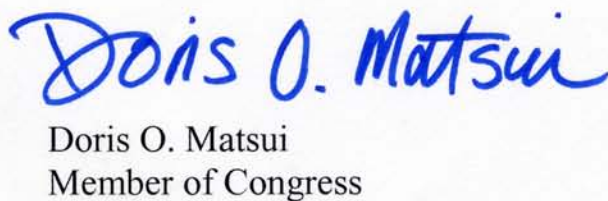
Sincerely,



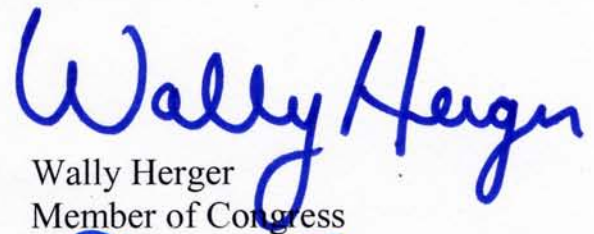
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



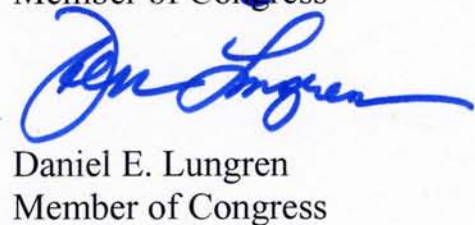
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Wally Herger
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Daniel E. Lungren
Member of Congress

Attachments: Letter from the Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California
Letter from Colonel Ron Light, District Commander, Sacramento District, Army Corps of Engineers



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

September 14, 2005

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Pombo
U. S. House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Representative Pombo:

We appreciate your interest and support for timely and necessary improvements to California's extensive levee system. I am confident that we all agree that the flood catastrophe triggered by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and other portions of the Gulf Coast brings a sobering reminder of the staggering human and property toll that a major flood can bring. In California, the two most critical levee issues are associated with the federal project levees on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries, together with the local levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Sacramento metropolitan area has the lowest level of flood protection for any large urban area in the nation. Other river cities such as Tacoma, Dallas, St. Louis, and Kansas City have 500-year flood protection. Even New Orleans had a 250-year level of flood protection. Sacramento only has about a 100-year level of protection, a woefully inadequate level for a major city and the capital of California.

In addition, there are over 700 miles of structurally questionable local levees protecting low lying areas in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. While primarily protecting agricultural areas and less populated rural communities, these levees also provide for the conveyance of drinking water to over two-thirds of all Californians (almost eight percent of the US population) and irrigate some of the most strategic and productive farmland in the nation. Future disaster scenarios predict multiple levee failures in the Delta. Such an event would degrade water quality, allow salt water to quickly intrude into the Delta and lead to an extended interruption of state and federal water deliveries to the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. This would have a huge negative economic impact on both California and the nation.

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The Honorable Richard Pombo
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The state Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) district staff, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) collectively have identified and prioritized the most critical levee programs for California that need federal funding to help avoid a flood event like Hurricane Katrina. These programs were prioritized by giving high priority to those programs that were closest to construction and those that addressed critical issues relating to public safety or California's economy. Some of these projects may already have partial federal funding scheduled in this year's budget, but are included here:

<u>Priority Project</u>	<u>Proposed Federal Funding</u>
1. South Sacramento Streams Project	\$ 10,000,000
2. Sacramento River Bank Protection Project	\$ 20,000,000
3. American River Common Features Project	\$ 16,000,000
4. Folsom Dam Modifications and Raise	\$ 24,555,000
5. HR2828 Delta Project Priority Study – 180-day study	\$ 500,000
6. Delta Risk Management Strategy (with DWR)	\$ 3,000,000
7. Levee Systems Evaluations (multi-year program)	\$ 8,000,000 (first year)
8. Natomas Reimbursement to SAFCA	\$ 4,500,000
9. Mid-Valley Area Levee Reconstruction Project	\$ 3,300,000
10. Yuba River Basin Project	\$ 1,200,000
11. Lower Cache Creek, Woodland	\$ 600,000
12. Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Rest.	\$ 1,000,000

The above projects are cost-shared with the state and local partners. We expect that both the state and its local partners will be able to provide their share of the funding for these projects.

There are also many other important Corps projects that require federal funding. Correcting deficiencies in California's levee system will demand a comprehensive and sustained effort. More specific authority for the Corps may be prudent and necessary. Flood protection needs in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta involve three immediate actions:

- A) The Sacramento River Bank Protection Project would construct improvements to the levees protecting urban areas along the Sacramento River in FY 06.
- B) The Delta Project Priority 180-day Study will provide Congress with a recommended plan to address critical levee stability reconstruction projects and priorities as directed by Congress in PL 108-361.

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C) The Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility study will develop the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) as also directed by PL 108-361. The DRMS is an expedited study that will address levee stability throughout the Delta and recommend risk reduction measures that would be part of a long-term solution.

Reinvigorating the federal government's commitment to emergency response planning for levee failures in the Delta and engaging in robust emergency response planning and pre-positioning of resources are also crucial. The Corps had only a limited response to the Jones Tract Levee failure in 2004, intended to prevent flooding of adjacent islands after Jones Tract had failed. The Corps did not participate in closing the breach or the pumping of flood waters from Jones Tract. The Corps commitment to assist closing breaches or reclaim islands in the Delta during a flood disaster is unclear. Congress needs to provide the Corps clear authority and funding that commits the Corps to swiftly respond to levee failures and in reclamation of islands in the aftermath of a flood disaster in the Delta. The Corps should fully participate with the state to create an emergency response plan that:

- Includes early warning of storm events
- Rapid reconnaissance of distress
- Pre-positioning of flood fight and rock materials
- Planning for contracting for barges and barge-mounted equipment
- Planning for flood-fight resources
- A robust hydrodynamic model that helps analyze the effects of levee failures on water quality which would help prioritize repairs of multiple levee failures

California is poised to assist Congress with further briefings on the status of our flood preparedness challenges at your convenience. Thank you again for working on these critical levee issues for California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", with a stylized, cursive script.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

cc: The California Congressional Delegation



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

SEP 14 2005

Water Resources Branch

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein,

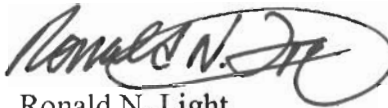
I appreciated our discussion on 12 September 2005 and your concern for the flood risk that California experiences as currently brought to the attention of the public as a result of Hurricane Katrina. You requested a list of our capabilities in California's Central Valley and Delta as it relates to protecting lives, and property. In coordination with California State officials and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) representatives; we have developed a list in order of priority, which gives top priority to achieving at least a 100-year level of flood protection for the Sacramento urban area. This is also based on our capability and the non-Federal ability to provide their cost share.

1. \$ 10.0 million - South Sacramento Streams
2. \$ 20.0 million - Sacramento River Bank Protection
3. \$ 16.0 million - American River Common Features
4. \$ 24.6 million - American River Folsom Mods and Folsom Dam Raise
5. \$ 0.5 million - 180-day report directed in PL 108-361
6. \$ 3.0 million - Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study to conduct the Delta Risk Management Strategy directed in PL 108-361.
7. \$ 8.0 million - Levees System Evaluation and FEMA certification process. This is a multi-year project.
8. \$ 4.5 million - Natomas Reimbursement to SAFCA
9. \$ 3.3 million - Mid-Valley Levee Reconstruction
10. \$ 1.2 million - Yuba River
11. \$ 0.6 million - Lower Cache Creek
12. \$ 1.0 million - Middle Creek

Of particular interest to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are three major efforts. The first is the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. This project would construct improvements to the levees protecting urban areas along the Sacramento River in FY 06. The second is a 180-day report that will provide to Congress a recommended plan to address critical levee stability reconstruction projects and priorities as directed by Congress in PL 108-361. Third, the Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility study will develop the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) as also directed by PL 108-361. The DRMS is a 2-3 year study that will address levee stability throughout the Delta and recommend a long-term solution.

All of the projects listed above will significantly reduce the flood risk to the California's Central Valley and the Delta. If you have any further questions please contact me or Mr. Thomas Trainer of my staff at (916) 557-7490.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald N. Light", enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Ronald N. Light
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer